CITY OF MIAMI BEACH Office of the City Manager Letter to Commission No. <u>2A 9-2004</u>



Date: September 20, 2004

To:

Mayor David Dermer and

Members of the City Commission

From:

Jorge M. Gonzalez

City Manager

Subject:

Leadership Florida Conference, Haines City, Florida

Please be advised that I will be out of town from Tuesday, September 21, 2004 through Thursday, September 23, 2004, attending a Leadership Florida conference in Haines City, Florida (a description of Leadership Florida is attached for your ease of reference).

In my absence, I have appointed Assistant City Manager Christina Cuervo to act on my behalf. Christina may be reached at the following numbers: ext: 6586; cell phone: 305 331-8758; home phone: 954 321-6937; her assistant Rocio Rodriguez may be reached at ext. 6148 and Chief of Staff Ramiro Inguanzo at ext. 6697.

If you need to reach me in the event of an emergency, please feel free to contact me on my cellular phone at 305 308-0663.

JMG\PTW

Electronic copy:

Executive Staff

Management Team

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"Florida stands on the threshold of greatness. Our future is limited only by the range of our vision, the quality of our leadership, and the desire of the people."

-LeRoy Collins Governor of Florida 1955-1961

Leadership Florida offers a leadership continuum that expands the impact of the distinct parts. The individual contributions of over 800 Florida leaders is multiplied by their collective strength and enhanced by the organizational structure to which they dedicate their time and commitment - the Leadership Florida Statewide Community Foundation.

Leadership Florida was created in 1982 by the Florida Chamber of Commerce to build leadership and a sense of state community, by identifying and training individuals with the passion and commitment to help make great things happen in our state.

Although leadership programs exist in many other states, none rivals Leadership Florida's ambitious offerings for multiple levels of leadership, its active regional alumni groups, nor its broad committee structure that encourages long-term involvement by all of its members.

It's no accident that a state as dynamic as ours would spawn such a unique program. Transplantation and transience have defined Florida from the beginning, creating a tumultuous environment full of challenges and opportunities. The diversity of cultures and ideas that wash in with the tide of new "Floridians" each year is the source of this state's leadership and its strength.

Knowledge is a key element of leadership, and each program is designed to enhance knowledge about issues critical to Florida. Above all, Leadership Florida is about making friends - friends that can be counted on to put Florida's interests first.